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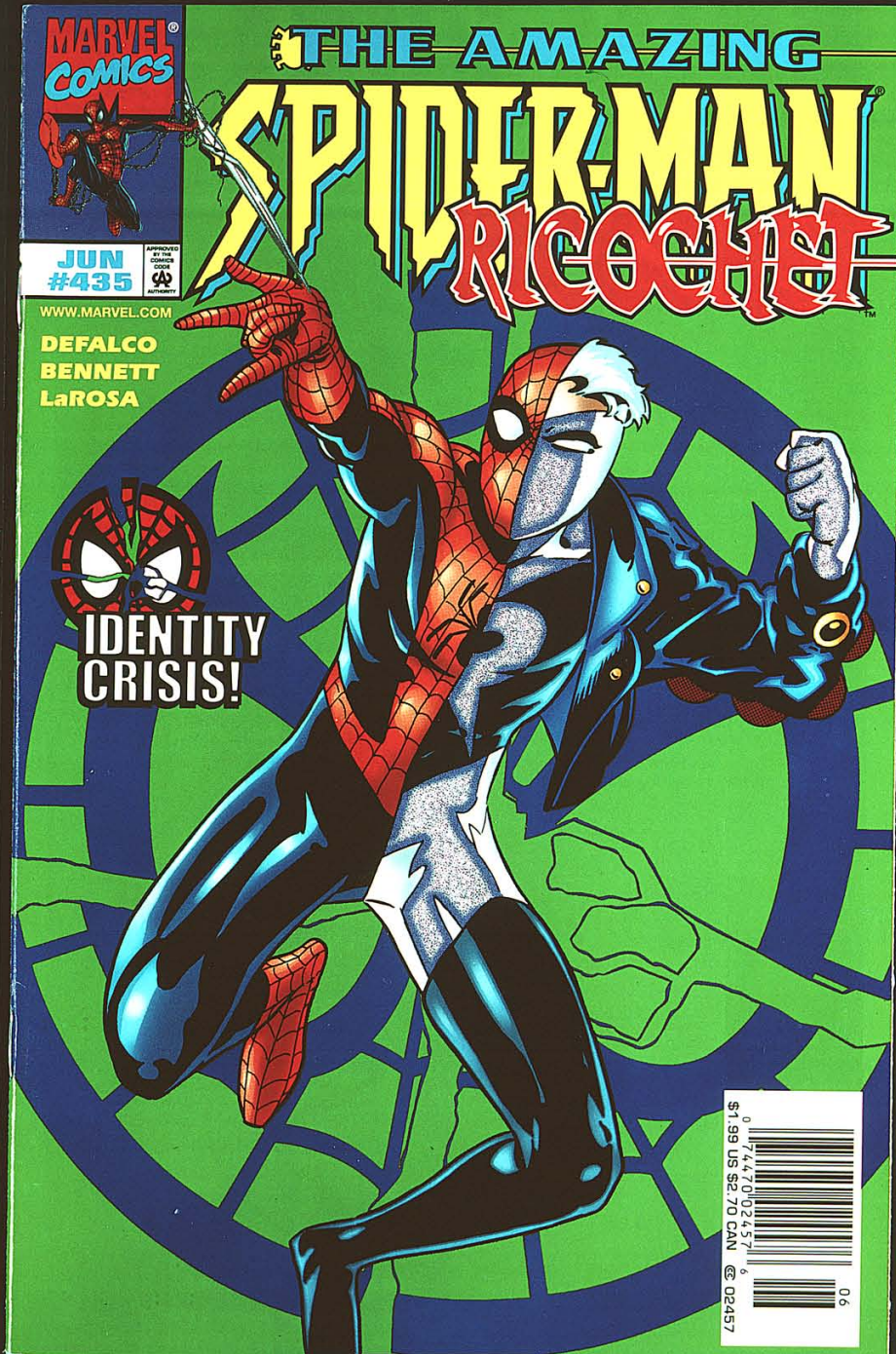
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DEFALCO
BENNETT
LaROSA



IDENTITY
CRISIS!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN RICOCHET



\$1.99 US \$2.70 CAN © 2004

Beethoven born
(the composer, not the dog)

Fire extinguisher invented
(Cro-Magnons everywhere celebrate)

THE MOST GIGANTIC GOOF-UPS IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

1171

The Tower of Pisa built. 1172: It starts to lean. 1172 1/2: a bunch of builders look for new jobs



1492

Christopher Columbus discovers America (then gets his eyes checked—he was aiming for China, y'know)



32,000 BC

Cro-Magnon man builds first indoor fire (33,714 years before the fire extinguisher gets invented)



1751

The Liberty Bell made by some English dude, then cracks the first time it's rung (obviously the British are tip-top at tea, pretty crummy at smelting)



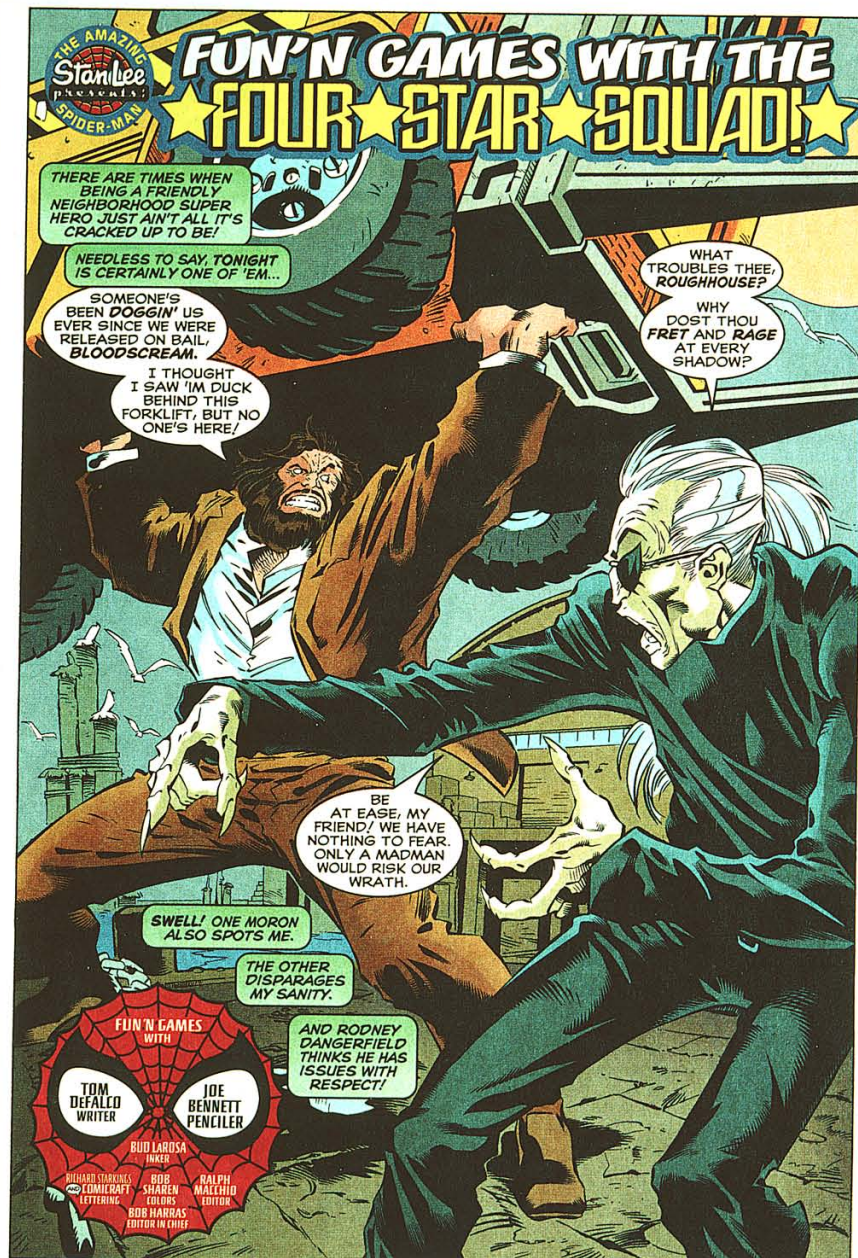
1998

CHIPS AHOY! FORGETS THE CHIPS!

1,000 bags of Chips Ahoy! chocolate chip cookies got out with no chips. And instead of re-naming them something lame like "Ahoys," we're offering a \$1,000 reward for every chipless bag you find (that's a buck for every missing chip). Yep, this just may be the sweetest mistake ever made.

www.chipsahoy.com

No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Open to U.S. residents. Must redeem winning game piece for reward. Prizes must be claimed by June 15, 1998. 1,000 winners in all. For free entry method and rules, see marked packs. *1,000 chips in 18oz or larger bags. ©1998 Nabisco, Inc.



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HEY, IT'S
THE EVER-
AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN!

A true hero at heart, Spider-Man has dedicated his life to preventing injustices against the innocent.



Meet Peter Parker, once a brilliant, though meek, high school student, orphaned as a child and reared by his doting Uncle Ben and Aunt May. At a science fair, Peter was bitten by an irradiated spider and gained the proportionate strength, speed, agility and early warning "spider-sense" of that arachnid. He used these powers for personal fame and fortune as a masked Spider-Man. But when Peter failed to stop a criminal who later killed his beloved Uncle Ben, the youth's costumed identity took on a far deeper significance. He realized that with great power there must also come great responsibility. So Peter Parker became the wall-crawling nemesis of the criminal element; a young man determined to atone for the tragic death of his uncle — The Amazing Spider-Man!

RICOCHET

A new identity assumed by Peter Parker in the absence of his Spider-Man guise.



BLACK TARANTULA

A shadowy South American crime-lord who has apparently lived for centuries. The Tarantula has come to New York to personally try and take control of the city's criminal element.



DELILAH

The Rose's primary enforcer, she is a super-powered woman who has been set on the trail of Spider-Man several times, though she has failed to destroy him.



ROUGHHOUSE

An Asgardian rock-troll who has come to Earth and fought against the X-Men's Wolverine.



BLOODSCREAM

A vampire-like elf who has teamed with Roughhouse against Wolverine.



PREVIOUSLY IN

Due to the five million dollar bounty on his head, placed there because of a false murder charge, Peter Parker was unable to continue being Spider-Man and assumed a new identity -- Ricochet!!



As the newest hero in town, Ricochet encountered the Deadly Delilah and joined forces with her in her quest for vengeance against the Black Tarantula, who recently crushed her in battle.



Meanwhile, the Black Tarantula has met with two other top crime lords to decide how New York City should be divided among them.



The Rollicking Ricochet and Deadly Delilah have their own ideas about the presumed division...

Design by COMICRAFT's John Marasigan



UNKNIT THY SULLEN BROW, AND LET US RETIRE TO THE QUARTERS PROVIDED BY OUR GENEROUS BENEFACTOR!

I REALLY HOPE HE STOCKED UP ON RING DINGS AND YOO-HOO!

T'WOULD NOT SURPRISE ME! HIS FAITHFUL MANSERVANT DID ASK OF OUR TASTES.



ANY CHANCE THE BOAT IS WIRED FOR CABLE?

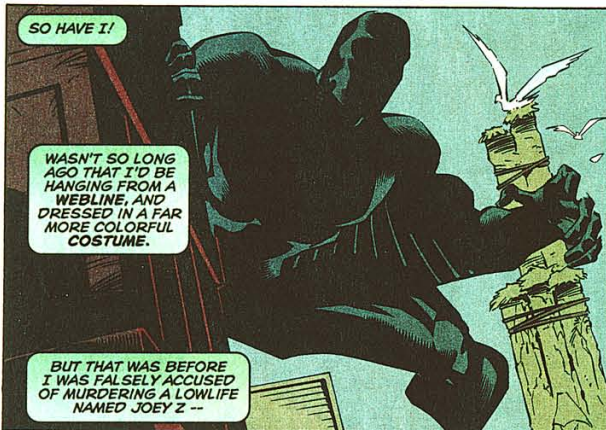
I AIN'T SEEN AN EPISODE O' SOUTH PARK SINCE WE'VE BEEN LOCKED UP.

RING DINGS?

YOO-HOO?

SOUTH PARK?

HOO-BOY! SUPER VILLAINS REALLY HAVE CHANGED WITH THE YEARS.



SO HAVE I!

WASN'T SO LONG AGO THAT I'D BE HANGING FROM A WEBLINE, AND DRESSED IN A FAR MORE COLORFUL COSTUME.

BUT THAT WAS BEFORE I WAS FALSELY ACCUSED OF MURDERING A LOWLIFE NAMED JOEY Z --



-- AND THE DAILY BUGLE PUT A FIVE MILLION DOLLAR BOUNTY ON MY HEAD

WITH HALF THE CITY HUNTING FOR SPIDER-MAN, IT SEEMED PRUDENT TO ASSUME A NEW IDENTITY.



AND SO I DID!

FOUR OF THEM IN FACT!

WHILE THAT MAY SEEM A TAD EXCESSIVE, I'M NOT THE FIRST SUPER JOCK TO TRY THIS TRICK.

EVEN IF ONE OR MORE OF MY NEW LOOKS GETS BLOWN, I'LL ALWAYS HAVE A FALLBACK.

PRETTY CRAFTY, HUH?!



I THINK YOU'RE NUTS!



YOU KNEW THESE TWO LEG-BREAKERS WORKED FOR THE BLACK TARANTULA... AND YOU STILL TRAILED THEM?!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, MARY JANE? BETWEEN MY SPIDER-SENSE AND THIS COSTUME, I FIGURED THEY'D NEVER CATCH A GLIMPSE OF ME.

EXCUSE ME! I KEEP FORGETTING THAT YOU CAN BLEND INTO SHADOWS WHENEVER YOU'RE THE DARK!

DUSK!

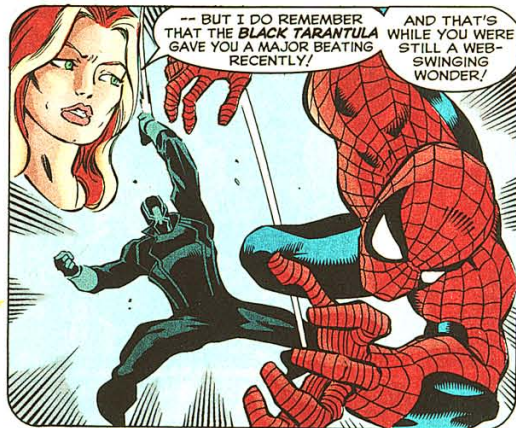
PARDON --?!



I CALL MYSELF DUSK WHEN I'M IN THIS COSTUME!

WHATEVER!

MAYBE I CAN'T KEEP ALL YOUR NAMES STRAIGHT --



-- BUT I DO REMEMBER THAT THE BLACK TARANTULA GAVE YOU A MAJOR BEATING RECENTLY!

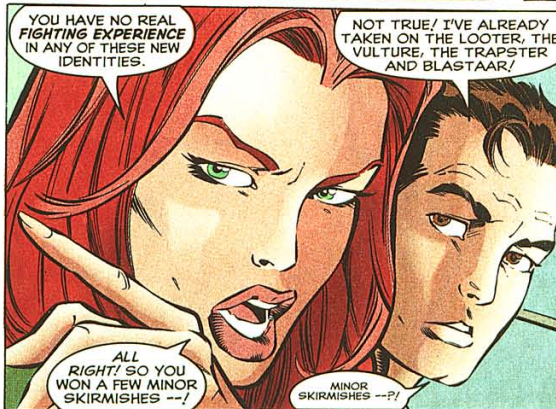
AND THAT'S WHILE YOU WERE STILL A WEB-SWINGING WONDER!



HEY! HE CAUGHT ME ON AN OFF DAY.

IT HAPPENS!

MAYBE SO, PETER, BUT IT TOOK YEARS TO DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS AS SPIDER-MAN.

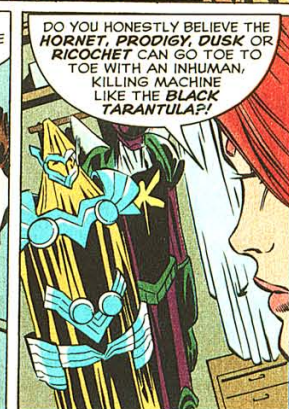


YOU HAVE NO REAL FIGHTING EXPERIENCE IN ANY OF THESE NEW IDENTITIES.

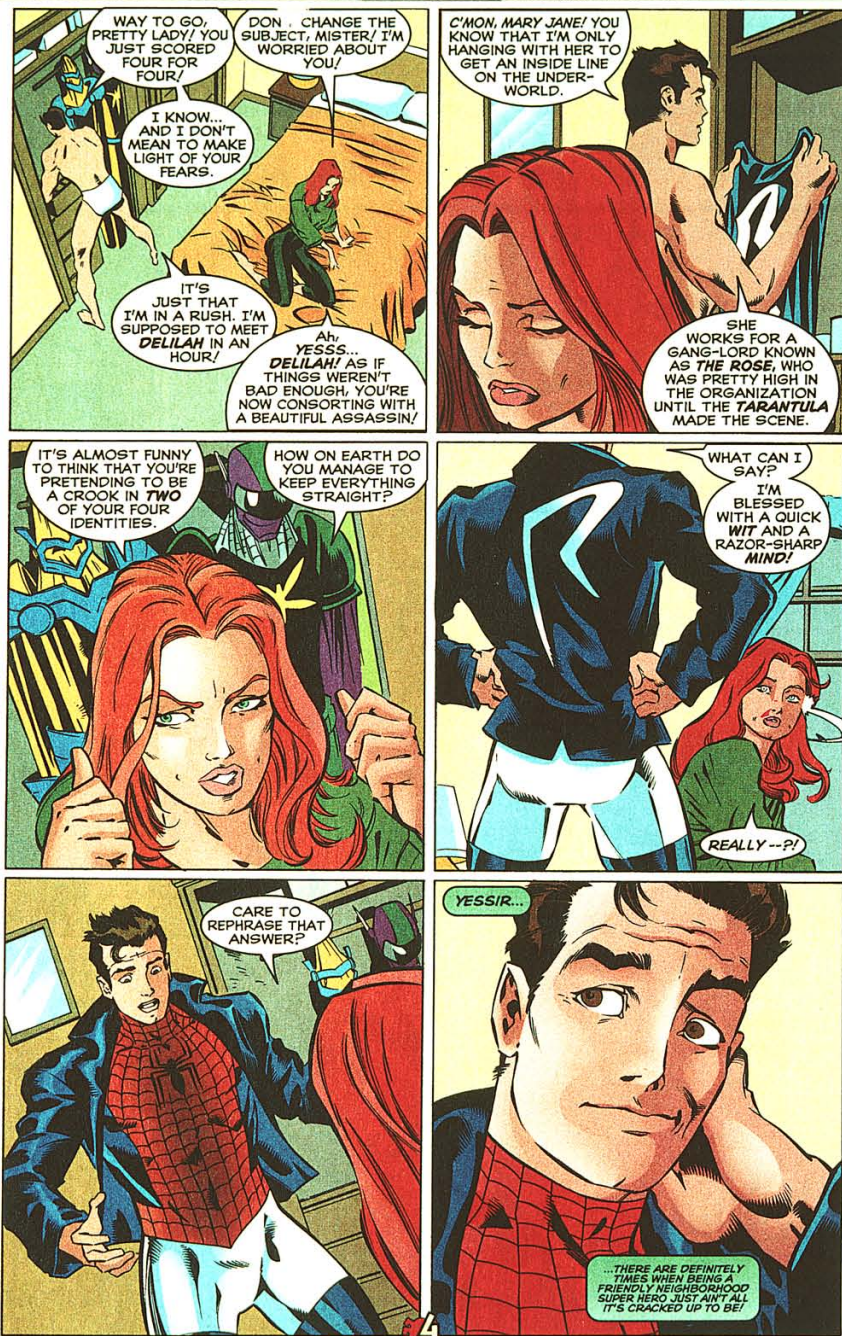
NOT TRUE! I'VE ALREADY TAKEN ON THE LOOTER, THE VULTURE, THE TRAPSTER AND BLASTAAR!

ALL RIGHT! SO YOU WON A FEW MINOR SKIRMISHES --!

MINOR SKIRMISHES --?!



DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THE HORNET, PRODIGY, DUSK OR RICOCHET CAN GO TOE TO TOE WITH AN INHUMAN, KILLING MACHINE LIKE THE BLACK TARANTULA?!



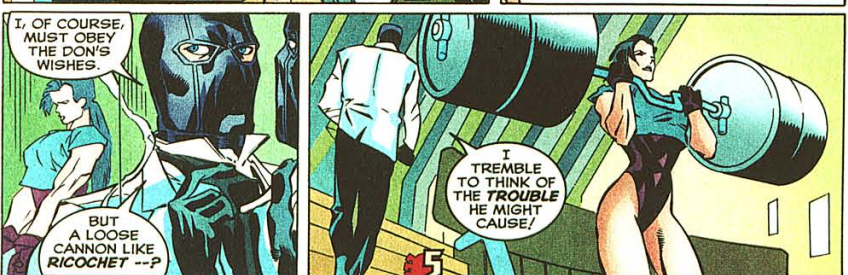
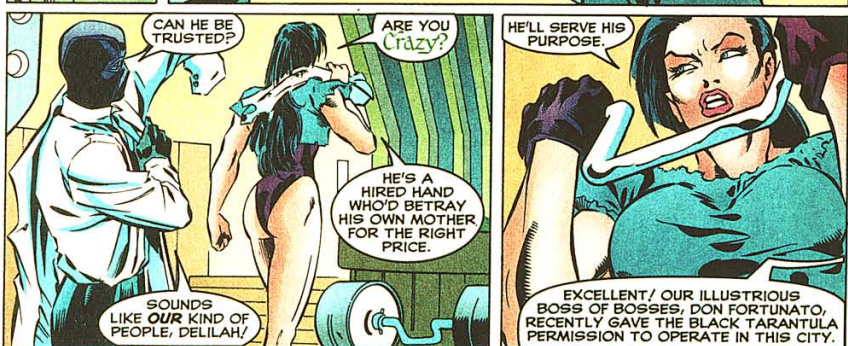
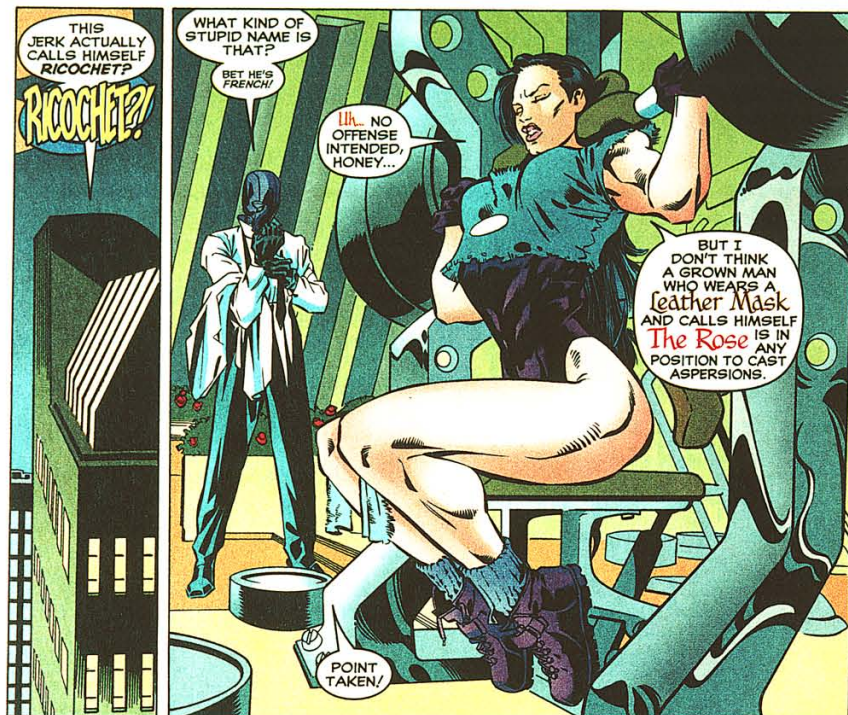
© 1997 Mars Inc.

**EVE SHARED
THAT APPLE
AND LOOK WHAT
HAPPENED.**

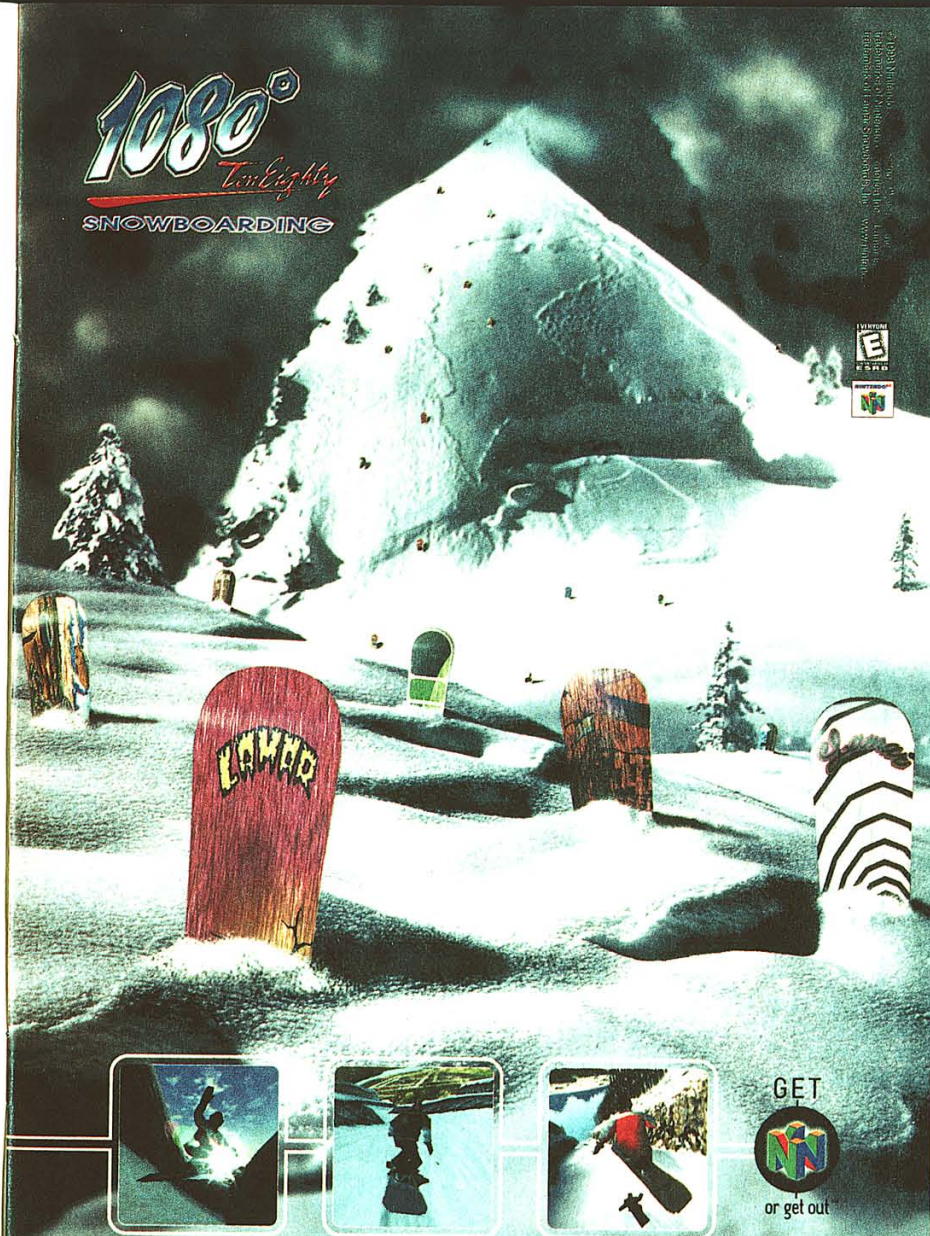
**DON'T YOU
MAKE THE SAME
MISTAKE!**



two for me. none for you.



1080° Twilight SNOWBOARDING



THE EXPERTS WOULD HAVE AGREED THAT IF YOU TRIED TO DO HALF THE STUFF IN 1080° SNOWBOARDING ON NINTENDO® 64 FOR REAL, YOU WOULDN'T BE AROUND TO BRAG ABOUT IT.



IMPRESSIVE, MY FRIEND! MOST IMPRESSIVE! MANY HAVE CHALLENGED THE WEB-SWINGER! FEW HAVE EVER MANAGED TO DEFEAT HIM! AND NONE AS DECISIVELY AS YOU!



THE BLACK TARANTULA IS HUMBLING BY YOUR COMPLIMENTS, DON FORTUNATO.

MY FATHER -- GOD REST HIS SOUL -- USED TO WARN ME THAT A MAN WHO USED THE ROYAL "WE" OR REFERRED HIMSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON WAS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

YOUR FATHER SOUNDS LIKE AN INTELLIGENT MAN! WE THINK YOU SHOULD ALSO ADD "MEN WHO WEAR MASKS"!

WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED? BECAUSE YOU, TOO, ARE INTELLIGENT!



WHERE IS THE ROSE?

I THOUGHT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO JOIN US.

HE'LL BE HERE.

THOUGH I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A MAN WITH YOUR VAST... EXPERIENCE... WOULD HAVE DEVELOPED MORE PATIENCE OVER THE YEARS.



I'M SURE I CAN ENTERTAIN YOU UNTIL HE ARRIVES.

PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE TO HEAR A MOST FASCINATING STORY WHICH WAS RECENTLY RELATED TO ME...



WHAT KIND OF STORY?



A TALE SET IN AN EXOTIC LAND, FULL OF ADVENTURE --

-- AND A PRIZE MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD!



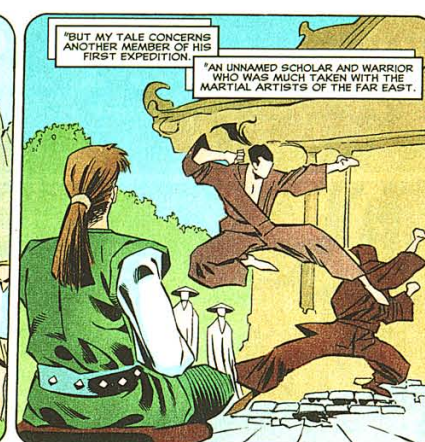
"I HOPE THAT YOU, LIKE ME, ARE A STUDENT OF HISTORY, AND KNOW OF THE GREAT VENETIAN EXPLORER MARCO POLO WHO TRAVELED TO CHINA IN THE LATE THIRTEENTH CENTURY."

"IT IS KNOWN THAT POLO OFTEN JOURNEYED WITH HIS FATHER AND UNCLE..."



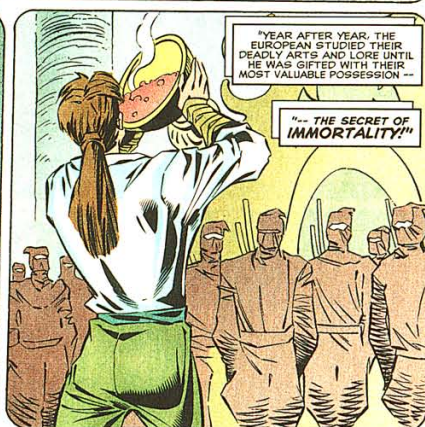
"SO GREAT WAS HIS DESIRE TO LEARN THEIR DARK SECRETS THAT HE SOUGHT A MYSTERIOUS SECT OF ASSASSINS --

-- WHOSE DESCENDANTS ARE BELIEVED TO PLY THEIR GRIM CRAFT TO THIS VERY DAY."



"BUT MY TALE CONCERNS ANOTHER MEMBER OF HIS FIRST EXPEDITION."

"AN UNNAMED SCHOLAR AND WARRIOR WHO WAS MUCH TAKEN WITH THE MARTIAL ARTISTS OF THE FAR EAST."



"YEAR AFTER YEAR, THE EUROPEAN STUDIED THEIR DEADLY ARTS AND LORE UNTIL HE WAS GIFTED WITH THEIR MOST VALUABLE POSSESSION --

"-- THE SECRET OF IMMORTALITY!"



THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THIS IMMORTAL WARRIOR STILL LIVES AMONG US.



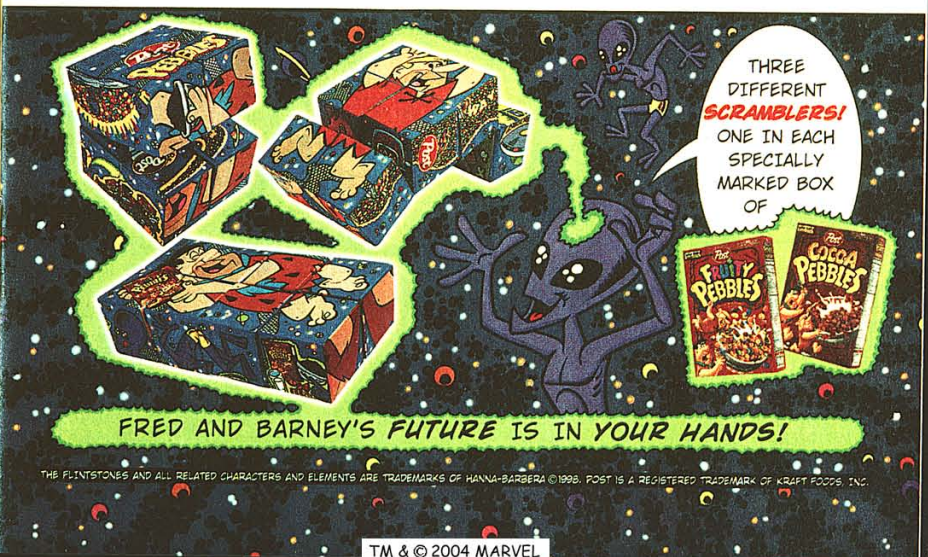
I APOLOGIZE FOR ARRIVING SO LATE, MY FRIENDS.

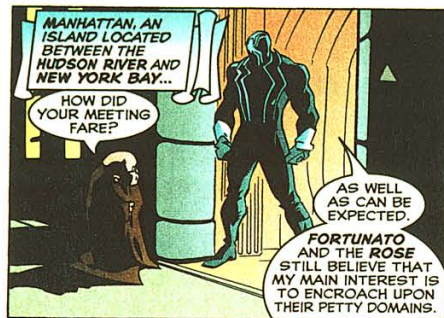
DID I MISS ANYTHING?



FIX UP THE MIX-UP

WITH THESE FREE STONE-AGE SCRAMBLERS!





MANHATTAN, AN ISLAND LOCATED BETWEEN THE HUDSON RIVER AND NEW YORK BAY...

HOW DID YOUR MEETING FARE?

AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED.

FORTUNATO AND THE ROSE STILL BELIEVE THAT MY MAIN INTEREST IS TO ENCRATCH UPON THEIR PETTY DOMAINS.



THEY LACK THE LUXURY OF YOUR ABILITY TO THINK LONG TERM.



TRUE! MEN SUCH AS THEY CONGRATULATE THEMSELVES WHEN THEY PLAN FOR MERE YEARS IN ADVANCE.

THE BLACK TARANTULA, HOWEVER, MUST THINK IN TERMS OF DECADES AND CENTURIES.

ON A RELATED TOPIC, FORTUNATO HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO MY BACKGROUND. HE HAS ALREADY UNCOVERED MANY IMPORTANT DETAILS -- BUT HE LACKS A CRUCIAL FACT!



WHERE HAS HE ERRED?

I WILL EXPLAIN LATER, CHESBRO. RIGHT NOW I PREFER TO DISCUSS OUR TWO LESS-THAN-EFFICIENT OPERATIVES.

HAVE YOU HEARD FROM BLOODSCREAM AND ROUGHHOUSE?



THEY ARE QUARTERED WITHIN ONE OF YOUR CARGO SHIPS, MASTER. THEY APOLOGIZE FOR THEIR RECENT FAILURE.

-- AND EAGERLY AWAIT A NEW ASSIGNMENT!

AS SHOWN IN WOLVERINES -- WOLVERAL!



0000! LOOKS LIKE BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD ARE FINALLY ON THE MOVE.

I STILL THINK WE SHOULD HAVE GONE IN AND REDECORATED THEIR LITTLE LOVE BOAT IN *Blood Red*.

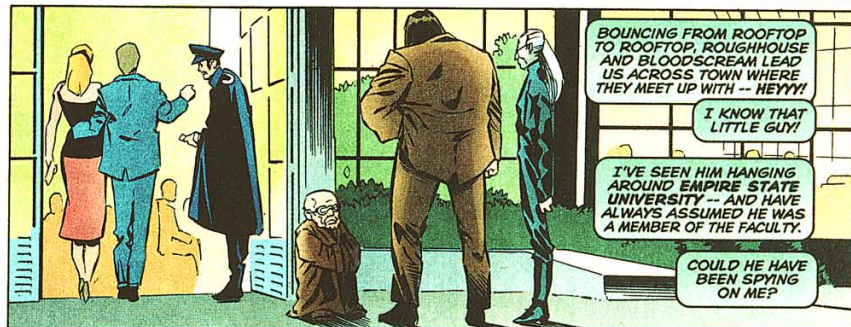
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO LEARN WHY THE TARANTULA'S KEEPING THEM AROUND.

Ah... Yessss... THEY SCREWED UP A PROTECTION RACKET, AND HE USUALLY REWARDS FAILURE WITH DEATH!



I SUPPOSE WE CAN ALWAYS VIVISECT THEM LATER.

KEEPING THIS PSYCHO UNDER CONTROL IS ANOTHER THING WHICH AIN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE!



BOUNCING FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP, ROUGHHOUSE AND BLOODSCREAM LEAD US ACROSS TOWN WHERE THEY MEET UP WITH -- HEY!!

I KNOW THAT LITTLE GUY!

I'VE SEEN HIM HANGING AROUND EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY -- AND HAVE ALWAYS ASSUMED HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY.

COULD HE HAVE BEEN SPYING ON ME?



SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, RICOCHET? YOU'VE SUDDENLY GONE ALL RIGID.

NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING!

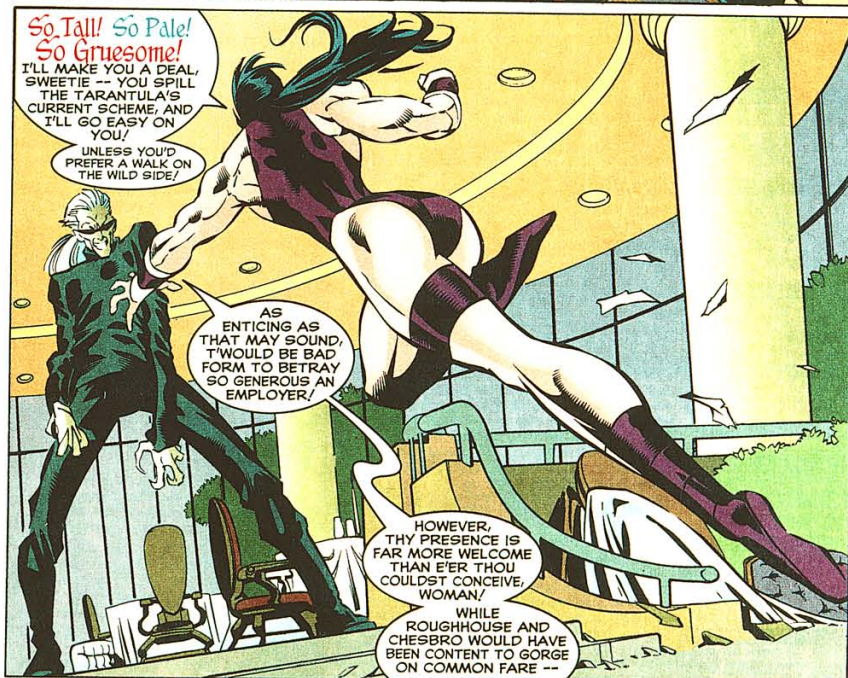
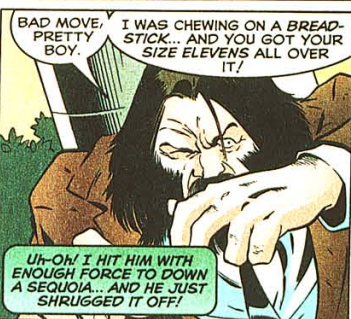
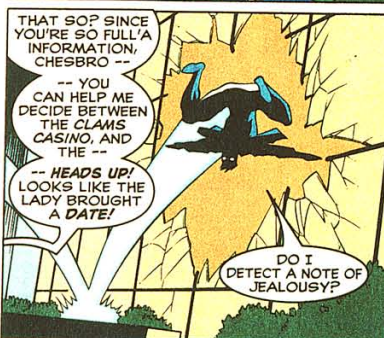
W-WHO'S THE DWARF?

SOMEONE WHO WORKS DIRECTLY WITH THE TARANTULA.



HE'S OBVIOUSLY HERE TO PASS ON INSTRUCTIONS TO ROUGHHOUSE AND BLOODSCREAM.

Hhhhh! I'M AFRAID THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR US TO LEARN WHAT THEY'RE PLANNING --!



BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE APRIL 15

MAN-THING #7

MAN-THING seeks an ancient Atlantean artifact -- but he's going to have to go through the SAVAGE SUB-MARINER to get it! By JIM DEMATTEIS and LAM SHARPE!

WOLVERINE #125

VIPER wants WOLVERINE in the worst way, and she's drafted six of the people that Wolverine cares about most to get him! Only KITTY PRYDE and JUBILEE remain free to help the Canuckiehead. By CHRIS CLAREMONT and LÉNIL FRANCIS YU!

SEEKER 3000 #19

Strap yourself in for the launch of an exciting new sci-fi series! It'll take you to infinity and beyond! By DAN ABNETT, IAN EDGINTON and ANDREW CURRIE!

STAR TREK: STARFLEET ACADEMY #19

Frantic final issue! OMEGA SQUAD's plan to trap the KLINGON FIRST CADRE works perfectly -- until KOVOLD shows up to rescue his mates! By CHRIS COOPER and CHRIS REINHOLD!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #6

Those shape-shifting SKRULLS are invading -- and only CAP stands in their way! Or does he? By MARK WAID and DALE EGLESHAM!

HEROES FOR HIRE #12

The MASTER unleashes an all-new team of villains -- and one of the HEROES FOR HIRE turns traitor! By JOHN OSTRANDER and PASCUAL FERRY!

INCREDIBLE HULK #465

BRUCE BANNER has two choices: either work for the government -- or stand trial for the HULK's crimes! By PETER KRAVITZ and DAVID BREWER!

THUNDERBOLTS #15

The THUNDERBOLTS are back on Earth -- and hunted by S.H.I.E.L.D.! Plus: ZEMO plots his revenge on his former "teammates"! By KURT BUSIEK and MARK BAGLEY!

EXCALIBUR #121

LEGION, the mutant that caused "The Age of Apocalypse" is back -- or is he? Could it be an even greater threat? By BEN RAAB and MELVIN RUBI!

PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN #92

The enigmatic DUSK attempts to prove SPIDER-MAN's innocence... and comes up against the new and improved TRAPSTER! By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

WHAT IF? #109

An offbeat tale -- What if "THE THING" had stayed in DR. DOOM's tiny town? By BILL ROSEMAN and ANTHONY CASTRILLO!

X-MEN #39

It's the long-awaited return of that ravishing redhead, MADELYNE PRYOR! Plus: NATE has a terrifying vision of the future! By TERRY KAVANAGH and MARK PALAJARILLO!

X-MEN: ALPHIA FLIGHT #12

Concluding the never-before-seen first team-up of your favorite American and Canadian mutants in a showdown against BARON STRUCKER! By BEN RAAB and JOHN CASSIDY!

ITEM! If you like outer space action... if you're a fan of TV shows like *Star Trek* and movies like *Star Wars*... we've got the comic for you! SEEKER 3000 is an all-new four-issue limited series blasting your way next week in a double-sized first-issue spectacular! The time is the far future. Our sun has gone nova, and the Earth has been destroyed. A starship has been launched, offering the last hope for humanity. That ship is the *Seeker 3000*, a vessel which contains the last human beings in the universe! Those of you whose memories go back to the swinging seventies will remember that SEEKER 3000 first appeared in issue #41 of our old MARVEL PREMIERE mag! The new S3K picks up 25 years after the original comic left off. Led by the heroic CAPTAIN SHAW, the inhabitants of the Seeker 3000 must learn to work together if there is to be any hope for mankind's future! But with a ship's computer inhabited by Shaw's arch-nemesis, JASON, and a ship filled with rebellious telepaths and genetically engineered clones, it's not going to be easy! Join our stellar line-up of talent, writers DAN ABNETT and IAN EDGINTON, along with artists ANDREW CURRIE and ART NICHOLS, as we begin a sci-fi odyssey that takes you where no comic book reader has gone before! SEEKER 3000: the future is now!

ITEM! It's the first anniversary of the Heroes for Hire -- and one of them has turned traitor! Is it IRON FIST? CAGE? The BLACK KNIGHT? The mysterious WHITE TIGER? The answer awaits in HFH #12, and it's a shocker! This issue features a story so big, it takes 48 pages to tell it! The malevolent MASTER unleashes his master plan, pitting an all-new team of super-villains against the Heroes For Hire! If the Heroes fail, a deadly virus will be released, killing off a good-sized chunk of the world's population! It's a battle royal like you've never seen before, as one of the members of the HFH team makes the ultimate sacrifice to save the world -- and even that may not be enough! Only creators-for-hire JOHN OSTRANDER, PASCUAL FERRY and JAIME MENDOZA could have crafted this action-packed epic! Pick up this issue, and find out if the first anniversary of the Heroes For Hire will also be their last!

ITEM! The greatest mutant-writer of all time returns to the pages of WOLVERINE this month, just in time for LOGAN's double-sized 125th issue extravaganza! That's right, CHRIS CLAREMONT, the man responsible for an unforgettable 17-year stint on the UNCANNY X-MEN, has returned to do what he does best! And what he does is craft pulse-pounding, berserker-raging, claw-carving high adventure! In this 48-page thriller, the evil VIPER has set her sights on Wolverine, and she's drafted six of the women Logan cares about the most to get him! Only KITTY PRYDE and JUBILEE remain free to help Wolverine against the combined might of six lethal ladies: ROGUE, PSYLOCKE, TYGER TYGER, JESSICA DREW, YUKIO, and PHOENIX! This one's got more beauties than a Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue! Nobody writes a fighting female like of Chris, and Wolverine's about to learn that hell hath no fury like a brainwashed woman with super-powers! As if that weren't enough, HYDRA and the HAND are gunning for Wolverine, too! Pick up WOLVERINE #125 and see just how much mutant mayhem can be crammed into one comic!

ITEM! Remember a few months back when we ran our LUCKY 13 SWEEPSTAKES? Well, now it's time to announce our fortuitous 13 Third Prize winners and award them their prizes, which just so happens to be having their names appear on a Marvel Bullpen Bulletin! So without further ado, here they are:

Jeffrey Love; Jerry Davison; Randy Snakeberg III; Jordan Naugle; James Locke; J.R. Emery; Doug Kline; Kennedy Williams; Marcus Wat; Daniel Huhn; Gary White; Shomari Pope; James R. Barnes

So congratulations to all of our winners and thanks to everybody who entered. And be sure to keep your eyes peeled for more Marvel contests in upcoming issues of Marvel Comics!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hi, Heroes!

Marvel must have the most inquisitive readers in the galaxy! Week after week, the ol' Soapbox is swamped with your letters containing questions about anything to do with the good ol' House of Ideas! Now it's time to open our famous No-Prize vault as we randomly select the first letter to titillate your senses and tantalize your mind...

Our lucky Laureate-to-be is Page Sausman of Boise, ID who fearlessly inquires:

"Will Marvel ever reprint on a monthly basis any of its many popular classics?"

Not a shabby idea, Page. However, while I prepare to suggest it at the next top secret, closed circuit meeting of our world-famous Marvel think tank, you might get a kick out of our newly designed Marvel Masterworks books, which are on sale now. They feature all our popular classics in some of the greatest coffee-table editions you've ever drooled over! (Hey, it's my column so I can sneak in all the plugs I want!)

Gary Boyarski of Saskatchewan, Canada, stopped shivering in the cold long enough to zap me with this zinger:

"Why did Spider-Man become Marvel's icon, and not Captain America, the Hulk, Daredevil or even the Fantastic Four?"

It's simple, Gar -- none of those other guys knew what "icon" meant! Okay, okay, I apologize for that inane answer. I admit it was a cop-out. Truth is, the only ones who can answer Gary are you fans -- you're the ones who made Spider-Man the idol of millions! But don't all answer at once, hear? Take a number!

Tammy Miller of Estacada, OR asks my opinion! I mustn't let her down!

"Should the Avengers be made up of all 'Major Leaguers' like Thor, Spidey, Iron Man and the Hulk, or should the team also include second-stringers like Hawkeye?"

The "second stringers" are okay with me, Tam, but let's hope Hawkeye never hears what you called him! In fact, maybe we shouldn't even have printed the name of your town; whenever our angry archer buys a comic, the Soapbox is the first thing he reads!

Our final No-Prize winner, Chris Knize of New Canaan, CT, thought we wouldn't notice that he squeezed in two questions for the price of one:

"What do you expect Marvel to do in the future? Will you be making any guest appearances as a writer?"

I figure Marvel will do the same in the future as we've done in the past -- try to turn out the zingiest stories and artwork from here to Andromeda! As for my making any guest appearances, I'm planning to do a new, original series with John Romita Sr. on the ever-popular Marvel website -- so let's all make sure our merry little modems are in working order 'cause I couldn't bear the thought of anyone missing it!

Now, as our four newest No-Prizes prepare to attend their city's victory dinners, let me leave you with this terrifying tidbit -- just when you thought it was safe to go back to the internet, you can reach me at my Soapbox site: STANZFAN@AOL.COM. I won't have time to answer any E-mail letters, but you can bet your beanbags I'll read every one!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

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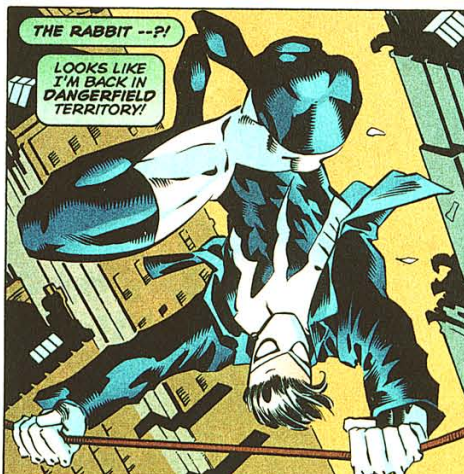
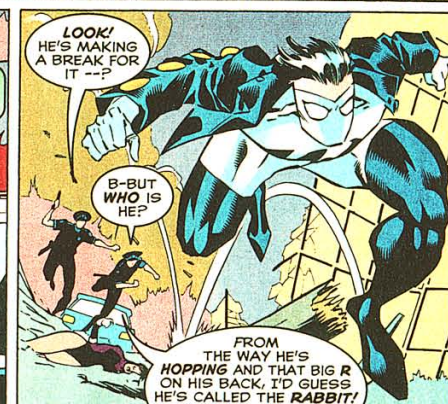
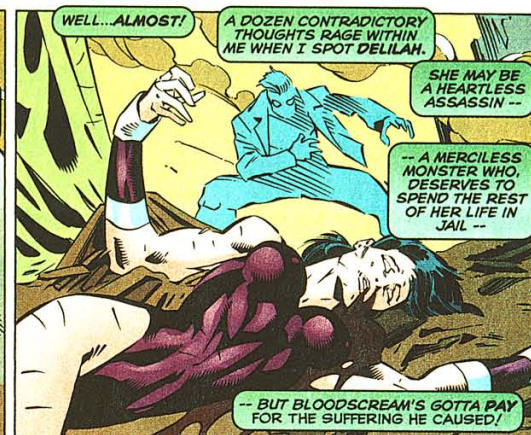
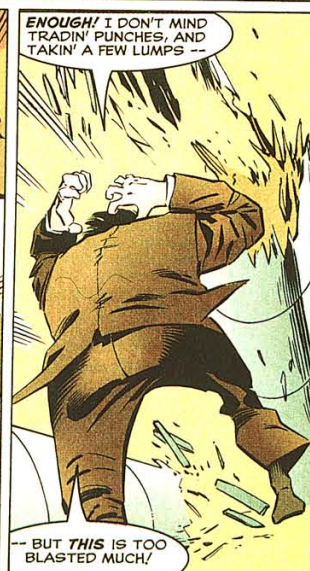
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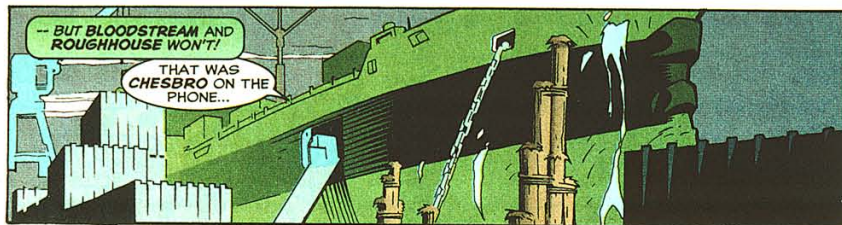
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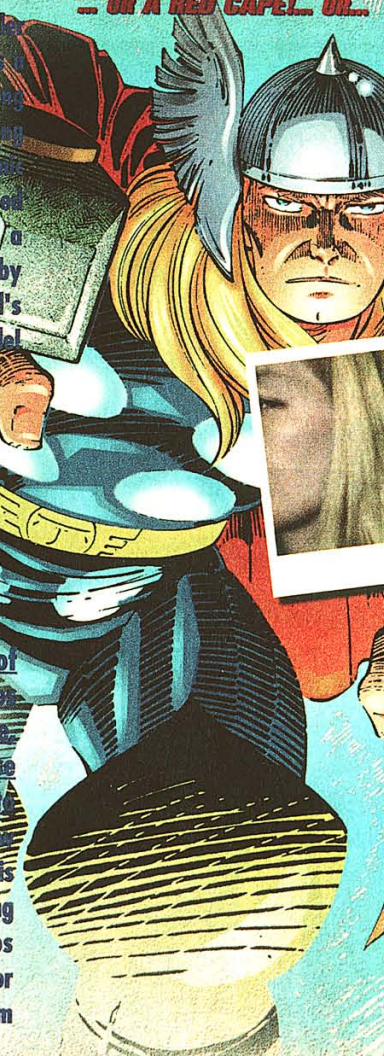


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-- BUT I CAN BE A REAL STINKER AT TIMES!

AND THIS IS ONE OF THEM!

SURE, I OWE YOU STIFFS FOR DELILAH --



-- AND I STILL WANT TO LEARN WHY THE BLACK TARANTULA HIRED YOU --

-- BUT THAT SHOULDN'T STOP ME FROM HAVING A LITTLE FUN!



T-THOSE GUYS COULDN'T HAVE JUST VANISHED!

THEY GOTTA BE AROUND SOMEWHERE --!

SINCE I DO NEED MORE PRACTICE WITH ALL FOUR OF MY NEW IDENTITIES, I FIGURED TONIGHT WOULD GIVE ME THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY --



-- TO HONE MY SKILLS!

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS, SIR!

EVEN IN A WONDERFUL CITY LIKE OURS, IT ISN'T PARTICULARLY WISE TO WALK ALONE AT NIGHT!

I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU ALLOW ME TO ESCORT YOU TO A SECURE FACILITY WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE AND WARM!

A-ANOTHER ONE?!



HEY! I KNOW YOU --!

I READ ABOUT YA IN THE DAILY BUGLE! YOU'RE THAT PRODIGY GUY!

BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED T'BE SOME KIND'A HERO!

HOW COME YOU'RE HANGIN' WITH A SKELL LIKE RICOCHET?!



ALL I CAN SAY, SIR IS THAT --



-- APPEARANCES ARE OFTEN DECEIVING!

BY THE WAY, YOU SHOULD REALLY WATCH YOUR STEP --

-- I SINCERELY DOUBT THE BLACK TARANTULA HAS ADEQUATE LIABILITY COVERAGE!



ROUGHHOUSE! ROUGHHOUSE! DIDST THOU CAUSE THAT GIANT SPLASH?

LET US BE GONE FROM THIS HAUNTED SCOW!



STINGERS!
SEDATIVE
STINGERS, IF YOU
WANT TO GET
TECHNICAL!



BUT
THAT'S OLD
NEWS BY
NOW!



HORNET -- IF THAT BE THY
TRUE NAME -- I BELIEVE
WE CAN YET STRIKE A
BARGAIN!

WHY
SHOULD
I OFFER
YOU A
DEAL?

HUMAN
LIVES HANG IN THE
BALANCE!
THOUGH
ROUGHHOUSE
AND I HAVE FALLEN,
THE BLACK TARANTULA
WILL NOT BE DETERRED
FROM HIS CHOSEN PATH!

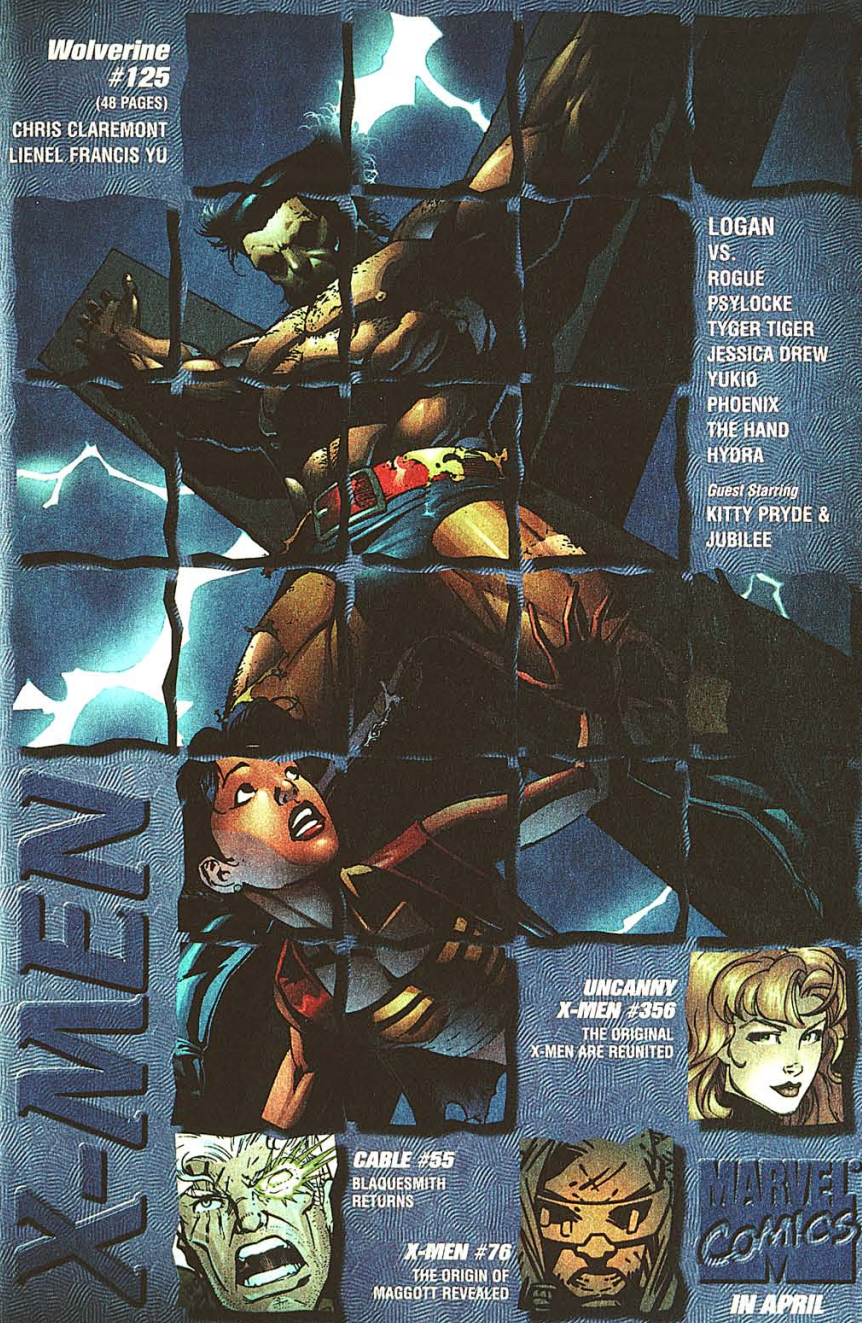


I PROPOSE A SIMPLE
EXCHANGE... ..KNOWLEDGE FOR
FREEDOM!

Wolverine
#125

(48 PAGES)

CHRIS CLAREMONT
LIENEL FRANCIS YU



LOGAN
VS.
ROGUE
PSYLOCKE
TYGER TIGER
JESSICA DREW
YUKIO
PHOENIX
THE HAND
HYDRA

Guest Starring
KITTY PRYDE &
JUBILEE

UNCANNY
X-MEN #356
THE ORIGINAL
X-MEN ARE REUNITED



CABLE #55
BLAQUESMITH
RETURNS



X-MEN #76
THE ORIGIN OF
MAGGOTT REVEALED

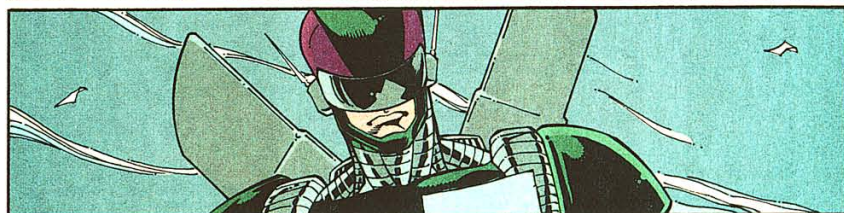
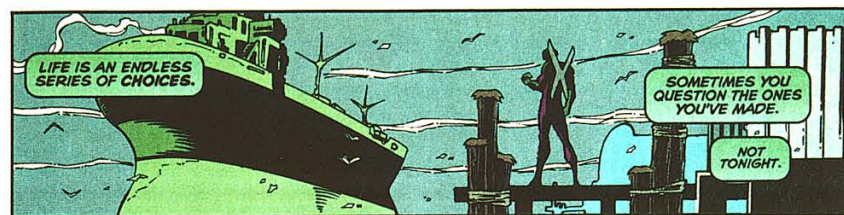
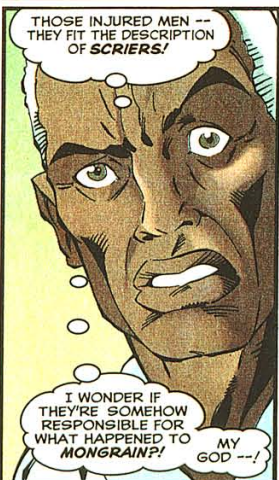


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THE SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Spiders, Goblins, Octopi, etc...
Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #428:
So poor Angelina Brancale is in a coma, having sacrificed herself in that weird Hand ritual. It's going to be a while before she can see Stunner again. Who cares? Doc Ock is back!! I only started reading ASM in April of this year and I didn't even know he was dead. Thanks for bringing him back so newcomers like me can enjoy him. If Octopus isn't Spidey's all-time greatest enemy, he certainly is his most famous (improbable?) foe, a classic heavy hitter.

Speaking of heavy hitters, I'm growing increasingly impressed with the Black Tarantula. I especially liked the scene in #428 in which he carved a picture in the wall with Delilah's head! I see a big future for this character. I also like the Rose. Other people think he's pretty flat, but I believe he can be outstanding with a little work. He's classy and devious (well, he could be) and his crime war against the Tarantula has kicked up quite a ruckus. Only one question concerning these guys' little helpers: Why is the Hand conspiring with the Tarantula and Madame Qwa? I thought it was established in issue #424 that the Hand (in red) and the True Believers (in green) were sworn enemies? My praise to the team working on this title, especially Steve Skroce. His pencils aren't as crisp as those of a, say, Luke Ross, but, wow! What action! What storytelling! Take, for example, the way Spider-Man avoided getting squished by those two cars on page #5, and used one of them to ram Doc Ock on pages #6 and #7. Kudos to Tom DeFalco, as well. His scripts are loads of fun while SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and other titles have seemed rather depressing of late.

Well, the time has come to wrap things up. So, until Iron Man starts rusting, the Morlocks appear in Mademoiselle and GQ, and we see the Black Tarantula's face (actually, that just might happen).
Nathan Houstman
219 13th Street
Tipton, IA 52722

Might, and already has, Nathan! Hope you caught the Tarantula's unmasking during the Spiderhunt storyline! And if that wasn't enough of B.T. for you, take a gander at the Next Issue box!

Glad to hear you're happy with the current direction of this title. Fun is the name of the game here, especially when Titanic Tom DeFalco is around! Hope we can continue to strike that chord with you.

As for the Hand and the True Believers, yep, they are indeed mortal enemies. The trouble was, the flashback sequence you refer to was narrated by the Rose. And, as everyone knows, he's colorblind. At least, that's what the Deadly Delilah tells us. Of course, she's still a bit woozy from having her head put through a wall, so...

Hey Marvel Guys,

I'm enjoying the storylines coming from you concerning Peter. I just

don't understand why you continue to ignore his scientific aspect as Spider-Man. During the period of time when Peter and Mary Jane were in Portland, I was reminded of Pete's love of science while he was employed with GARID during SPIDER-MAN: THE FINAL ADVENTURE. Anybody who enjoys science this much would come up with something to add to his arsenal long beforehand. I mean, Ben Reilly has had a bigger impact on Spider-Man's equipment in one year than Peter has in over 30. Ben's contribution of the impact webbing was a giant leap in preparing his alter-ego for persistent opponents that come back new and improved.

Doc Ock is back for one issue, #428, and now he has a force field. Ock already has a good advantage with the four mechanical arms he used to demolish an entire block in his return. Now, this force field makes him darn near unbeatable. We've seen several of Spidey's opponents get an upgrade in their power level, such as Electro, Mysterio, Shocker, and now Doc Ock. If some of these guys are adding to their arsenals, then Pete should, too.

Peter should either incorporate Ben's design into his webbing or come up with his own ideas. Peter is a scientist first and foremost, and scientists have a tendency to adjust to adversarial situations or people that oppose them. I think it is time for Peter to make Spider-Man's life a little easier by helping him with his arsenal so he has a fighting chance against his lethal foes.

Arnell Atkins
Gary, IN

Peter has made adjustments from time to time, Arnell. Problem is, most of them haven't stuck. Remember the Web Arm from WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #100? However, if you've been reading diligently these past few months, you've seen Peter draw on his scientific expertise in the creation of his four new identities, especially Prodigy.

Dear Arachknights,

Some comics give you an appetizer... and forget the main course. Others remember the "meat 'n' two veg", but have never even heard of dessert. With AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #428, we got a full and satisfying Spider-feast—and that's what most people have come to expect! Tom DeFalco is the King of Subplots, and currently they're trundling along nicely each ish. There's impetus with each character, intrigue on every page, and I'm enjoying it! Let's deal with specifics:

Doc Ock: The respect/understanding he showed for Spidey back during "Web Of Death" may have gone for good if he truly does blame ol' Webhead for what happened to Angelina. That would be a shame, since it was a nice twist for the bad guy to view his main enemy as a challenge and their battles as "wars of wits," rather than the usual hero/villain grudge matches. Still, his anger could make him more deadly than ever, and that'll be worth seeing!

Steve Skroce: I really appreciate his radical, innovative scenes. Delilah's head carving a spider shape out of the wall, Spidey ramming Doc Ock in a car, and diving through the windshield instead of simply leaping away—these are memorable. They stick in your mind, and to me, that's a sign of a class comic book.

Jacob Connover: He's the Rose, right? Right??? (Wrong?)

Shantal: Outspoken. Independent. A keen advocate of women's rights. And destined (I hope!) for a confrontation with a certain Peter Parker! A war of words between them is surely inevitable; they have opposing arguments and yet they're both partly right (Pete spends as much time as he can with MJ, but can't ignore his Spidey responsibilities; Shantal, not appreciating his dilemma, thinks Pete's thoughtless and neglectful). They can both give as good as they get, and any argument could be the most interesting meeting since a hungry Galactus called 'round Earth's place!

The finale: It was good to see Pete there for the climax, rather than Spidey, since the mask is nothing without the man behind it. And despite colorist Bob Sharen's cheeky attempt to trick us by coloring Jill's hair blonde, it was fun to see Pete alone with Jill Stacy. You've given us absolutely zero reason to think this, but... I can't shake the feeling that something is gonna happen there!

Between ASM and PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN, we're finally getting some development on the Stacy front. In fact, the entire ultra-intriguing civilian cast is enjoying major enhancement at the moment—and for as long as I've been reading, that's what I've really wanted to see.

So, yeah, ASM #428 was packed. But it was paced, too. Hey, let's face it: It was good. Thanks, Marvel.

Kevin Barron
43 Mill Falls
Driffield, East Yorkshire
ENGLAND YO25 7AZ

Well, you're certainly welcome, Kev. And thank you for all the wonderful praise! We've spent quite some time developing this current supporting cast, and we're glad to see that our long-term plans have paid off.

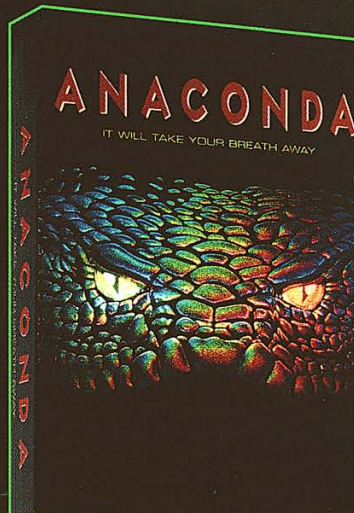
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THIS IS IT! IT'S BEEN BUILDING FOR WELL OVER A YEAR, AND NOW THE TIME HAS COME. SPIDEY GOES TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE BLACK TARANTULA! SPIDER-MAN GOT THE WEB KNOCKED OUT OF HIM LAST TIME—HAS HE LEARNED ENOUGH ABOUT THIS VICIOUS CRIME LORD TO FINALLY TAKE HIM DOWN? NEED WE SAY IT? GET YOURSELF BACK HERE IN FOUR WEEKS TO FIND OUT! YOU WILL BE ACCOMPANIED TO THE RING BY TOM "TURNBUCKLE" DEFAALCO, TOO! "BOY BLOW" BENNETT AND BUD "LEFT HOOK" LAROSA. OUR RING GIRL WILL BE NONE OTHER THAN RALF!

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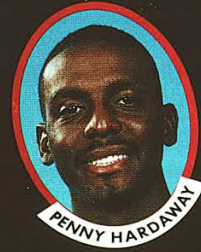
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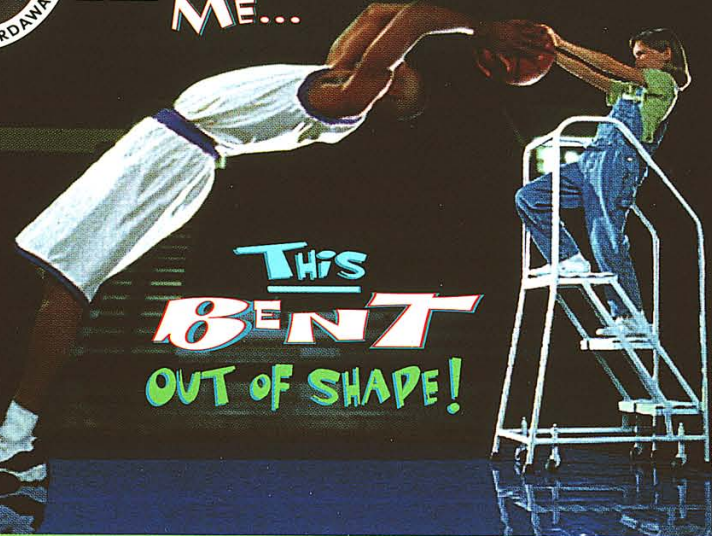


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